Dear Jim,

9/25/74

Because your last night's call makes it clear we'll not be getting ~~xxxxxx~~ together before I come down Sunday night for our early Monday morning departure Monday, I mail this accumulation. I will bring other things, including a letter from Jimmy of some time back. My copy machine needs servicing again.

There is a possibility of another complication. I do not expect anything more to eventuate, but I'd best tell you what the situation is.

Two weeks ago my mother suddenly was unable to use her legs. With remarkable presence of mind and incredible determination for an ailing woman over 80 she made her way using her hands only to the door of her apartment, opening the various locks while still on the floor, and called for help until it came. She has been hospitalized since.

My sisters have kept me informed. At first it was attributed to a potasium deficiency. But several days ago the indications of hardening of the arteries could no longer be avoided nor the possibility of resultant brain damage. It is still unclear.

She did recover some use of her legs and did get around slightly with a walker after treatment. But she started to worry the doctors and nurses because she wanted to be out of the hospital when so clearly she could not be. Her demands and protests were such that they put her under restraint. Don't tell me how a feeble woman over 80 did it but she frustrated those restraints one night and the wonder is she didn't break her hand or a hip. She didn't even fall.

When she could not again foil the restraints she did the one violent things I have ever known her to do. She threw a pitcher through the window.

(My father lost his temper easily. I get that from him. Or did until with effort I brought it under control. He would on occasion throw things at me in his anger. But my mother could take anything in stride. She was by no means unemotional nor reluctant to express emotions. It is just that she never lost her temper, never did anything violent, never even said anything violent. Save for the verbal non-violence, I guess I get this from her. But this is so radical a change in her character that we are all worried about what it can mean. One indication is that she is now complaining about the terrible treament she is receiving. Actually, she has been treated wonderfully. We spoke to her after hearing from a sister and knowing that the doctors were being very, very good and quite exhaustive. She was then so very pleased at their attention and efforts. So, we believe her mind has been involved, perhaps through circulatory problems.)

My younger sister is a social worker. Recently, with her children old enough, she has resumed her own career. She works in an excellent modern sort of rest home-home for the aged. So, she has some knowledge of these things. She told us last night that from her observations and from what my mother's doctors have said there is no way of predicting what will or will not happen. There are cases of people of mom's age coming out of this kind of thing entirely, able to walk again and again in complete contact with reality.

However, my mother has had a heart condition. So, while I know nothing, it is always possible that in the last minute something can happen that will demand my presence. Or she may die.

I do not anticipate that anything will happen now but there is the possibility that for this reason I may not be able to go with you Monday. I report this so you can be aware of the possibility, if remote. And plan accordingly.

I suppose the same thing will be true for the 11/22 hearing. In anticipation of the possibility then, I do believe it would be good to plan in advance, if necessary without me, what testimony you will want from me. This, of course, is separate from the other things I would do but it is essential and we should be prepared for the possibility that it might not be possible to go over my testimony in advance. I'm not worried about not being able to remember but I also think that the probable absence of witnesses on the other side makes the potential of my testimony more important and that it should not be left to chance. I think you should have at least detailed notes.